

SAR-3 / Galil Copy

Posted at AK47.net by E. Blake



1. I made the handguard. Believe it or not, I used a mitre saw on a block of walnut. It was part of a much bigger piece I picked up at a specialty wood supplier here in town for about \$15. It's not as hard as it sounds, because all the angles are square until you get to the final shaping. I chucked a router bit into my drill press, set up a little guide with a straight edge and used it to route the finger grooves. Less stubborn people will just bite the bullet and buy a Galil handguard from Vulcan or Sarco or Numrich.

2. After I pressed the front sight group off and prepared the muzzle for the "decorative muzzle break," I hacksawed off the part of the sight group that I wanted, and a local (Knoxville, TN) genius disguised as a welder welded it onto the gas port. Grinding wheels, dremmel tools, and files smoothed out the rough places in the weld. Took him about 5 minutes. (Of course, it took him 10 years to get to where he could do it in 5 minutes.)

3. A local gunsmith--to whom I now owe countless favors--welded the square plate (that I'd prepared) onto the back end of the receiver after I hacked off the tang. These welders are a swarthy group. We used a piece sufficiently thick for him to drill & tap it first so that we could attach the skeleton stock from ACE and have it fit flush up against the receiver. I would tell you it cost me \$50 for the welding and drilling and tapping, but if I said that, I'd have to pay him the other \$20.

The skeletal stock and pistol grip were both purchased from Bob at ACE.

4. Pals at JoeKen sold me the handguard holder and the gas tube. They're also the source of the SAR-3 that you see "dressed up." You can get a tube like that from Vulcan Arms, or just grind the flanges off a standard tube. You can make it prettier by tack welding a little curved sheet of not-too-thick steel plate over the top of it.

5. Standard AR birdcage, tack-welded on over threads.

6. Our friends at SARCO sold me a Galil receiver cover w/sight installed. \$95 if they've still got 'em.

7. I called up the guy at SKS-Man and ordered the bolt carrier for an SKS. Took it over to a friend's shop who has a cut-off saw and proceeded to cut off the charging handle knob. I heated and turned the charging handle on the AK bolt carrier up 90 degrees and had the knob welded onto the (now) upright charging handle.

Much grinding and shaping followed. Emory cloth smoothed things out.

Baking lacquer from Brownell's evened out the finish and hid any "oopses".

The sling swivel came from Global Trades, I think. The sling is one of those \$3 cheap-os, picked up at a gun show.

To be honest, I never really tried to keep up with the cost of the project, and if it weren't for the good will of some of my more talented friends, it would have set me back much more than it did. But I figure I've got about \$225 worth of parts between the birdcage compensator, the stock, pistol grip, bolt carrier knob, receiver cover, gas tube, sling swivel, and handguard holder.

If a man can put a price on the number of times his wife rolls her eyes at him and says, "Are you going down to the garage to work on that gun again?" then it was very, very expensive!